The Palatlakaha Run Blueway is one of eight featured waterway trails in the Lake County Blueways Program. The Lake County Parks & Trails Division, manages more than three dozen parks, preserves and boat ramps. For more information or a complete listing of Lake County parks, call (352) 253-4950 or log on to www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks. For Lake County Tourism information, call (352) 429-3673, visit the Lake County Welcome Center, located at 20763 U.S. Highway 27, Groveland, or log on to www.lakecountyfl.com.

Produced by Lake County in partnership with the Lake County Water Authority, www.lcwa.org.

Prepare a “float plan.” Leave a paddling route and return time with a relative or friend.

Do not approach or harass alligators, as they can be dangerous. It is illegal to feed wildlife. Blueway trails are shared with alligators, nesting birds and other wildlife. Please observe, but do not disturb.

When in a group, assign boats to be the lead and sweep. Preferably both boats should be manned by experienced paddlers with no one in the group passing the lead boat or falling behind the sweep.

Law requires persons in vessels less than 16 feet long, including canoes and kayaks, must have either a wearable or throwable PFD for every person on board.

Avoid canoeing or kayaking alone, or at night.

Watch for motorboats. Stay to the right and turn your bow into the wake.

Make mental notes as you pass trail markers — knowing the location of the closest marker will help emergency personnel should you need assistance.

Secure your car and take keys with you; and remember a cell phone to call emergency personnel, if the need arises, at 9-1-1.

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Palatlakaha Run

The longest trail in the Lake County Blueways Program, the Palatlakaha Run traverses seven bodies of water: Lake Louisa, the Palatlakaha River, Lake Susan, Lake Minnehaha, Lake Palatlakaha, Lake Hiawatha and Lake Minneola. These lakes help form the 17-lake Clermont Chain. Highlights of the Palatlakaha Run include two protected areas in the Lake Louisa State Park and Crooked River Preserve. Other entry points include Palatlakaha Park and Boat Ramp, located north of Lake Louisa, and the Clermont Boat Ramp, located on Lake Minneola. Lake Louisa State Park offers an assortment of activities including full-facility camping, equestrian trails, fishing, nature trails and swimming. In addition, private cabin accommodations overlooking beautiful Lake Dixie are available and offer two bedrooms, two baths, a full kitchen and dining/living room area. For more information, call the Lake Louisa State Park at (352) 394-3969.

Lake Minneola

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